

building bulletin

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

September, 1961

20

YOUTH SERVICE BUILDINGS
GENERAL MIXED CLUBS



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YOUTH SERVICE BUILDINGS : GENERAL MIXED CLUBS

INTRODUCTION

1. One of the recommendations of the Albemarle Report¹ on the future development of the youth service was that the development group of the Architects and Building Branch of the Ministry of Education should undertake a study of the premises required for youth work. This BULLETIN is the first of a series which will record the results of the development group's work in carrying out this recommendation, and of similar work carried out by local authorities and voluntary bodies.

2. The Albemarle Report defined the aims of the youth service as association, training and challenge of the right kind. The development group, therefore, began their study by visiting a large number of clubs, in all the variety which is characteristic of the youth service, to find out how these aims are being developed in practice, and the ways in which the premises and other facilities provided can help the clubs in their work. The clubs visited included general mixed clubs, single sex clubs, specialist clubs, youth wings, community centres and recreational centres; some were provided by voluntary bodies, and some by local authorities.

3. It quickly became clear that it would not be possible, within the compass of a

single Building Bulletin, to make recommendations covering so wide a range of different types of club, and of different building requirements. An analysis of the building projects which local authorities and voluntary bodies are proposing to carry out within the next few years showed, however, that the general mixed club is likely to be the type most frequently in demand. It seemed sensible, therefore, to begin by studying in detail the requirements of this type of club. But the fact that this BULLETIN is concerned mainly with the design of general mixed clubs does not mean that other types of club are regarded as of lesser interest or importance. On the contrary, the future strength of the youth service must depend very largely on the provision of a wide range of different types of club, and more experiments are needed in unorthodox ways of meeting the leisure time needs of young people.

4. The recommendations made in this BULLETIN are now being put to the test of practical application in a project for a general mixed club which the development group are carrying out for the Bristol Local Education Authority, in collaboration with the City Architect. This project, together with other examples of new buildings for the youth service, will be the subject of a further BULLETIN in this series.

¹ The Youth Service in England and Wales. Report of the Committee Appointed by the Minister of Education, 1958. (H.M.S.O. 6s. 0d.)

5. It follows, therefore, that this BULLETIN makes no claim to be either final or comprehensive. It draws attention to the history of poor accommodation in the youth service—often nothing more than a long narrow hut—which has moulded the belief that the ideal club premises consist of a hall with as many squarish rooms as possible tacked on to it, and suggests new principles of planning which seem likely to prove generally acceptable. But in other respects its aims are simply to suggest some of the ways in which these principles might be applied to meet local needs, and to stimulate thought and discussion. The

Minister hopes that readers of the BULLETIN will not hesitate to send him their comments and suggestions for improvements.

6. The BULLETIN could not have been written without the help and encouragement of individuals and organisations outside the Ministry of Education. The Minister wishes to acknowledge in particular the help given by club members, and by the many youth leaders and organisers, in the fields of both public and voluntary effort, who put their time and experience so freely at the disposal of the development group.

I. FOUR EXISTING CLUBS

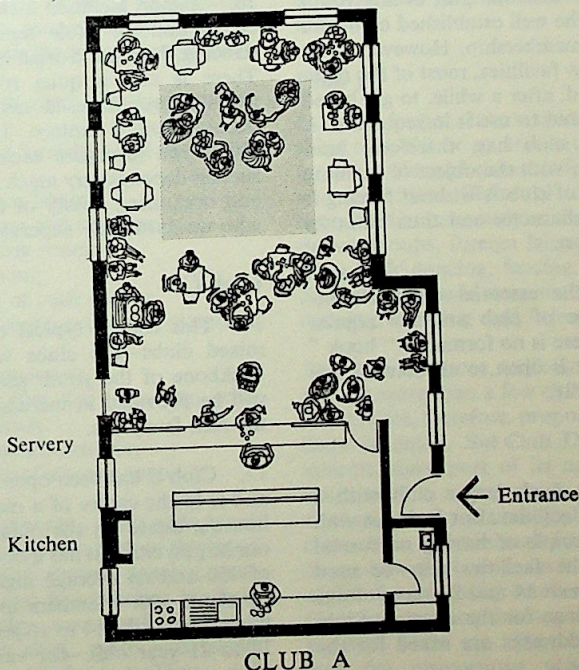
7. Throughout the country, there are many different types of club. And the clubs meet in a great variety of buildings, ranging from old houses, huts and barns, through converted churches and halls, to modern purpose designed and "do-it-yourself" prefabricated buildings.

8. Out of the many different types of club visited, four have been selected for consideration in this part of the BULLETIN. They are each representative of a particular group, and are described partly to set the scene for those unfamiliar with building for the youth service, and partly because

each contains certain facilities and relationships between activities which are of general interest and significance.

Club A

9. This club, started several years ago by a voluntary organisation, is housed in a converted railway booking office. It serves a densely populated residential and industrial area in the older part of a large city. The aim of the organisers was not simply to provide the local "outsiders" and the tougher young people with a place where they could meet, drink coffee, dance



and talk, though the club does all this. Their aim was rather to establish a no man's land where youngsters could find an adult who understood their language and their problems—a place to which they could turn for unbiased advice on any subject, or to discuss problems on a "man to man" basis.

10. The facilities and equipment are essentially simple; there are chairs and tables, an area marked out by a change of floor colour for dancing, a record player and a snack bar. The club room, with a simple straightforward decor, opens directly off the narrow pavement of a busy road.

11. The original aim of providing a place where adults could simply talk with teenagers has been entirely successful, and the technique is an essential part of any youth club, even of the well established club with permanent membership. However, since there are so few facilities, most of the regular visitors tend, after a while, to get bored with the club and to use it infrequently. A regular youth club has, therefore, been opened nearby, with the object of building on the success of club A without forcing it to change its character and thus blunt its original function.

12. Perhaps the essential difference between this type of club and the regular clubs is that there is no formal or "book" membership. It is open to all between the ages of 14 and 21.

Club B

13. This is a much larger club with a wider range of facilities. But it shares with club A the principle of having no formal membership. The facilities may be used by anyone between 14 and 20 years of age by paying sixpence for the evening. Since no names or addresses are asked for the

club tends to attract the unattached, the under privileged in terms of social background, the nomadic and the rebel element. But since it provides more facilities than club A it also attracts local, well adjusted youngsters, and has developed a vigorous community spirit.

14. The club was started by a group of councillors and local citizens with the object of providing a place of freedom and entertainment, and has been open for many years. Although there are no regular members, groups have come together to put on stage shows, landscape the site, help build tennis courts and a roller skating rink and to give parties for old-age pensioners at Christmas. There have also been exchange visits with Germany.

15. Indoor facilities include a 90 ft. by 20 ft. hall for table tennis, film shows, dancing, drama and organised programmes. There is also a quiet room, a physical activities room (used mainly for weight training) and a canteen. The club attracts about 150 teenagers each night, and its success depends very much on the authority and organising ability of the many adults who unobtrusively supervise the activities.

Club C

16. This club is typical of most general mixed clubs—the clubs which form the backbone of the youth service and which will be provided in increasing numbers in the next few years.

17. Club C has been open for many years and is in the centre of a mature, inter-war housing estate on the outskirts of one of our largest cities. It has a book membership of 450 and an average nightly attendance of about 100. Members are divided into two groups—the 14 to 16 year olds and the 17 to 21 year olds—for various activities.

The club is open seven nights a week and occasionally on Saturday and Sunday afternoons. All sessions are open to members of both sexes.

18. The club has a part-time leader, who is a qualified teacher, and several assistant leaders and helpers, but relies for leadership largely on senior members. It is part of one of the City's Institutes of Further Education and has other links with the local community. It is affiliated to the National Association of Boys' Clubs and the National Association of Mixed Clubs and Girls' Clubs.

19. The accommodation is not ideal since it was built with a small central gymnasium and a boys' room on one side, and a girls' room on the other. The worst defects have been lessened by reconstructing and rearranging the available space to provide:

- (1) small club room for dancing and film shows;
- (2) coffee bar furnished and decorated by members;
- (3) quiet room/library;
- (4) gymnasium and showers;
- (5) girls' sitting room;
- (6) games room;
- (7) a variety of craft rooms;
- (8) leader's room and small reception office;
- (9) committee room;
- (10) small office for members who organise activities;
- (11) cloaks and lavatories;
- (12) a variety of storage spaces.

20. The club supports a fairly wide range of activities common in a club of this type. These include film shows, dancing, play reading and drama, hairdressing, football, judo, photography, woodwork (members make their own skis), radio and model making, canoe and boat building, and

motor cycle repairs. The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme is part of all club activities.

21. A second-hand motor coach has been obtained and converted to sleep twelve, with a kitchenette, shower and internal chemical closets. This is used for week-ends in Wales and Derbyshire and for summer holidays on the Continent. Members also have the use of a keeper's hut in the country, and facilities for week-end camping are available. Annual holidays are arranged for skiing in Switzerland and tented camps in Devon.

22. Although most of the activities depend on strong leadership there is an active members' committee and several activities are organised entirely by members themselves.

Club D

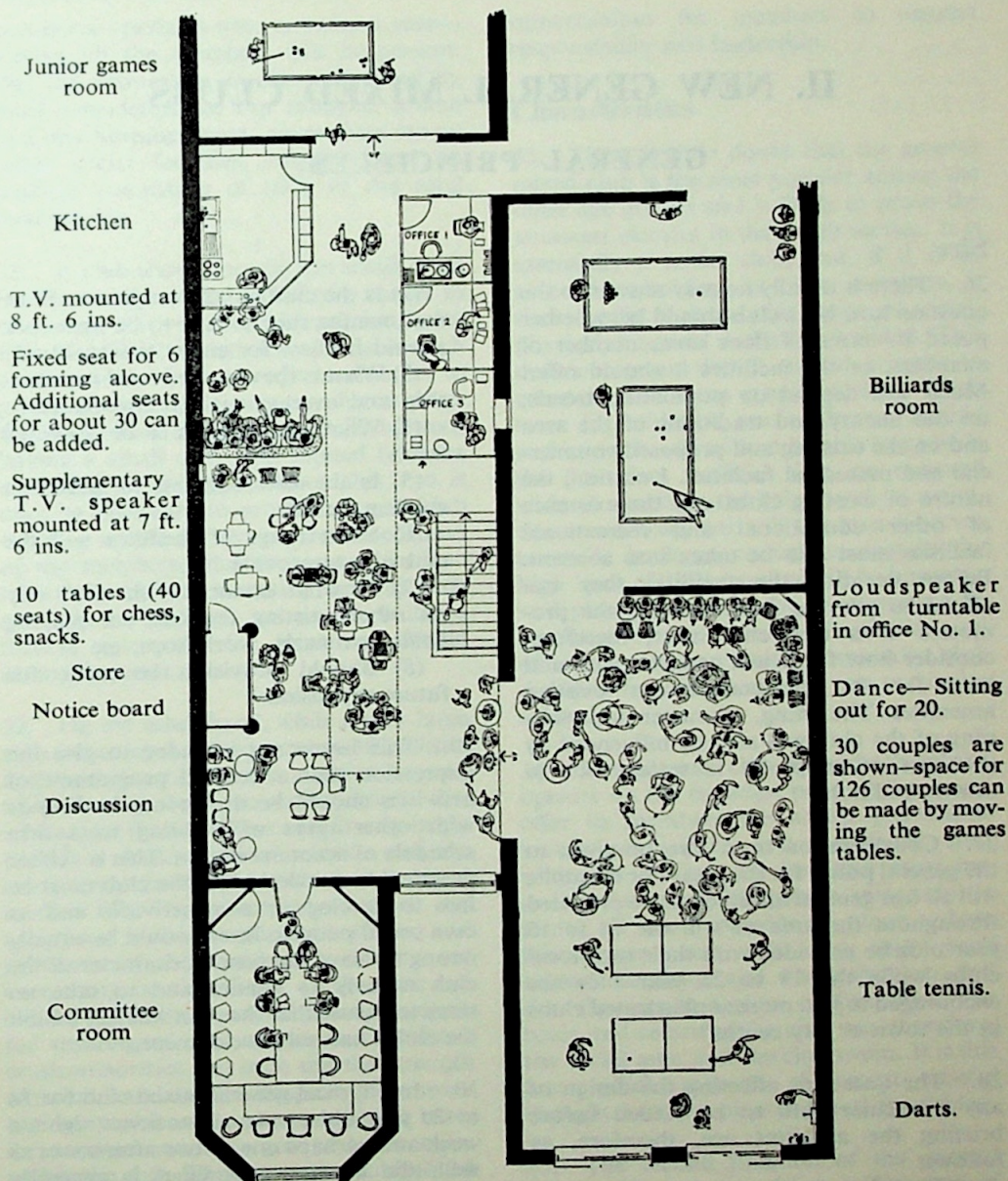
23. The largest clubs visited had memberships of 1,000 or so and naturally offered an even wider and richer variety of facilities and activities. Clubs of this size can support simultaneously a choir, orchestra, drama groups, foreign language conversations, folk dancing, fencing, several good football teams and demonstrations of hairdressing, cooking and other skills.

24. It is, of course, unlikely that there will ever be more than a few clubs of this type, and it is not, therefore, proposed to examine them in detail. But Club D is of special interest, since part of its accommodation is arranged in a way which suggests a new approach to the planning of general mixed clubs of a more usual size. The sketch shows how the club room has been formed at first floor level by combining two quasi-Georgian terrace houses built about a hundred years ago. The ceilings are high and the proportions generous. Within

this series of spaces, between 150 and 200 members can be seen on any evening enjoying in complete harmony a variety of activities—table tennis, billiards, darts, dancing to amplified music, group conversations, chess, draughts, eating, drinking and chatting and television. The leader's room and other offices are within the same area separated from the main social space only by low glazed partitions. The cloak-rooms, lavatories and girls' sitting room are close to the club room.

25. There are many respects in which the relationship between this social area and other areas, such as the craft and physical activity rooms, leave much to be desired

in this particular club. But the lessons to be drawn from the central club room are clear. Compact yet fluid planning allows the various parts of the social accommodation to inter-act and so promote the atmosphere and feeling of a club. The grouping and re-grouping of members, which is a constant and a natural phenomenon, is not inhibited by fixed or even movable partitions. The background noise—a blend of conversation, amplified music and the noise of people moving about—permeates and enlivens the space, so providing a basic unifying and integrating force. Supervision is simplified and adults can walk through the club without disturbing any of the activities.



CLUB D

II. NEW GENERAL MIXED CLUBS

GENERAL PRINCIPLES

Size

26. There is usually no easy answer to the question how big a club should be, whether posed in terms of floor area, number of members, or the facilities it should offer. Much will depend on population trends, on the history and traditions of the area and on the existing and proposed commercial and municipal facilities. Location, the nature of existing clubs and the existence of other educational and recreational facilities must also be taken into account. Before deciding the facilities they can afford to provide from scratch, the promoters of a new club must, therefore, consider how far it will compete with and how far it will complement existing amenities. The siting, character and planning of the club will also be influenced by the sort of people it is setting out to attract and hold.

27. Consideration must also be given to the general policy for the area. For example, will all-age general mixed clubs be provided throughout the area or will the 14 to 16 year olds be provided with their own local clubs while the 17 to 21 year olds are encouraged to join more sophisticated clubs in the town or city centre?

28. The questions affecting the design of any particular club to be settled before briefing the architect are, therefore, as follows:

(1) What is the club's place and function in the youth service development scheme for the area?

(2) Is the club to have a system of formal membership or is it to be open—or should it allow for either eventuality?

(3) What is the expected total membership and average nightly attendance?

(4) What age range is to be provided for?

(5) Is the new building to house an existing club?

(6) What range of facilities will the club aim to provide?

(7) To what extent will the club rely on other existing facilities for playing fields, gymnasia, workshops, etc?

(8) Should provision be made for future expansion?

29. This list is not intended to give the impression that a detailed programme of activities should be drawn up, leading as with other types of building to a firm schedule of accommodation. This is neither practicable nor desirable; the club must be free to develop its own activities and its own social pattern. But it would be equally wrong to leave the general character of the club entirely to chance and to take no steps to ensure that the plan will not inhibit the club's natural development.

30. In a typical general mixed club for 14 to 20 year olds, open six or seven nights a week and perhaps one or two afternoons as well, the average attendance is generally a third of the total membership. On popular nights and dance nights the proportion may rise to about two thirds, and on rare

occasions—perhaps once or twice a year—almost all the members will be present. But the proportion is also influenced by local considerations. For instance, a club in a new housing estate, where there are no other social facilities, might expect an average attendance of 80% of the total membership.

31. A club should not be too small or its facilities will not be sufficiently varied to sustain a vigorous club life; it may also find it difficult to attract a wide enough cross section of the teenage community to give it the vitality necessary for success. But sometimes the choice will lie between having a small club with limited facilities or having no club at all. Where this is so, it may be necessary to provide a small club room as a base for the regular association of the members, and to arrange for it to have the use of other existing facilities, such as halls, workshops or games halls; a formal agreement for joint use should always be made.

32. On the other hand, while a very large club can enjoy a generous range of facilities and equipment, there is a point beyond which it may begin to suffer serious disadvantages through sheer size. It may begin to lack a closeness of association and the sense of common loyalty which is essential to club life. The leader may become less concerned with the personal affairs and problems of the members and may not even recognise their faces. Little clubs and cliques within the greater club may compete for sovereignty over spaces and facilities, crush minorities and even sap the strength of the club and weaken its spirit. The answer to these problems may be to establish bases for semi-autonomous groups to function within the club. These groups would not be competitive but might offer to the individual member a "home" and a sense of belonging. They might also give wider

opportunities for members to assume responsibility and leadership.

Characteristics

33. There is little doubt that the general mixed club is the most popular among the older age groups and is likely to prove the strongest element in the youth service. It is essentially a social club, and, if it is to succeed in holding its older members, it should offer them a wide range of social, physical, practical and other facilities. This does not mean that it should attempt to compete with those specialist clubs which cater for athletics, music, drama, boxing and so on. It will seldom be able to provide the first class facilities that are required without upsetting the balance of its activities as a whole; nor will the area it serves normally be large enough to sustain the high level of skill required. It is, however, well placed for the tasks of interesting its members in a wide variety of activities, and of introducing to a suitable specialist club the few who wish to excel in one particular sphere.

34. The general club should, therefore, operate on the broadest possible front and offer its members the widest practicable variety of facilities and experience. But, whatever its size, the first and most important function of the general mixed club is social. It must provide a place where friends can meet, talk and enjoy each others' company, and where they can feel that they are in a place of their own. The heart and centre of the club are, therefore, the social area and the club room. It is this area which requires the most careful thought both in planning and furnishing.

35. The second function of the general mixed club is to provide a wide range of facilities and possible activities, sometimes grouped for convenience under the headings

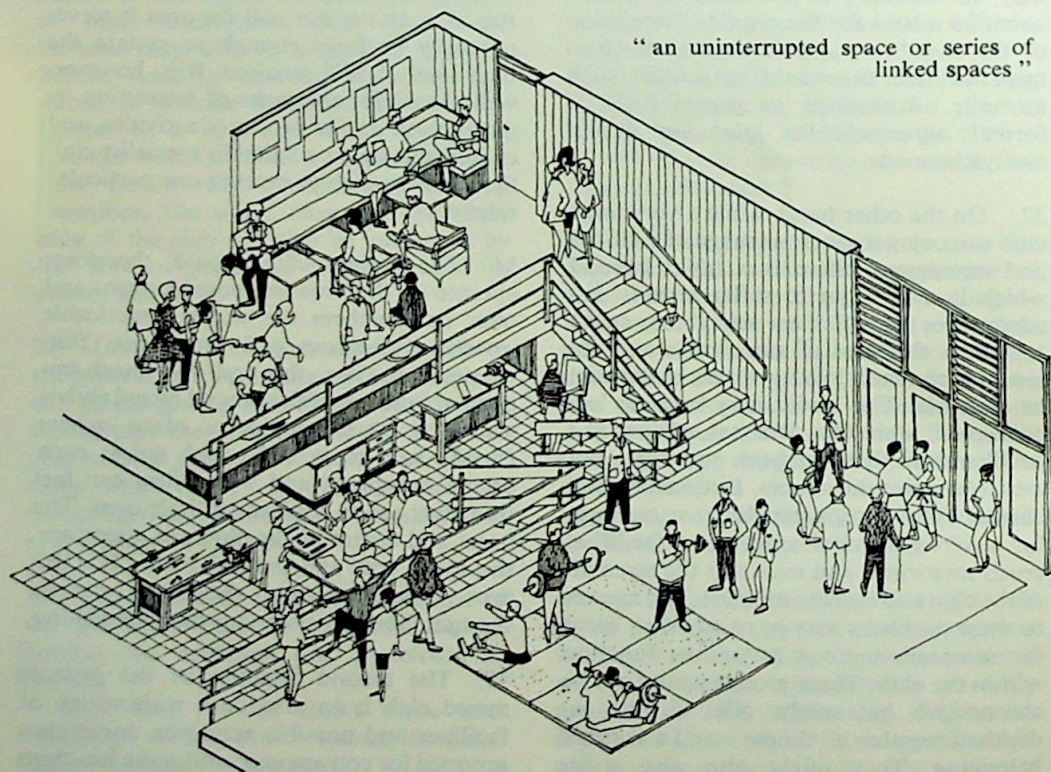
physical, practical and other. The key to success in planning lies in the spatial relationships between these areas and the social area.

36. Where a proper balance between these areas is not achieved, the club will certainly be the poorer. Reliance on other facilities close at hand is sometimes inevitable, but over emphasis on this method of providing a variety of activities is unlikely to succeed. The reason is, of course, that it is what is happening in the club room that interests members. If they are out of earshot of the social centre for more than a very short time, members tend to feel "out of it".

Some spontaneous activity may start up in the club room without their being aware of it or able to join in. They will also feel that their friends will not know where to find them nor, and this is equally important, whom they are with.

37. For all these reasons, and also because the virility of a club stems from the close inter-action between its leader and its members, the leader must feel that he is in touch with all that is going on. Compactness is, therefore, the essence of club design.

38. To a greater extent than in many other types of building the relationship



between spaces is crucial to the development of the variety of fruitful group and personal relationships which make up the life of the successful club. In particular, the co-existence of a variety of activities in one carefully planned space will produce a sense of vitality without which no club can be truly successful. The separation of activities into separate boxes acts to their mutual disadvantage and may prove a disintegrating factor. No club can expect to develop its full potential in an unsympathetic building.

The club premises

39. The general concept of a club building can, therefore, be summed up in the following terms:

an uninterrupted space or series of linked spaces, sub-divided by partial or discontinuous screens, within which social, practical, physical and cultural activities can be pursued in proximity and harmony.

40. A club designed along these lines should, therefore, have the character of a single space embracing a great variety of activities rather than a series of small rooms each containing a single isolated activity. Although certain areas of the single space may be designed with a particular group of related activities mainly in mind, the actual pattern of use should depend largely on the members themselves. The building must, therefore, lend itself to an ever changing pattern of use and not inhibit more than it must the development of any particular activity at any given time. In architectural terms, this concept adds to Sir Henry Wootton's "Commodity, Firmness, and Delight" three other fundamental requirements—compactness, flexibility and balance.

41. These general conclusions on the

relationships between spaces may be summarized in the following way:

(1) the heart of the club is the club room which should be close to, or even part of, the main entrance;

(2) the widest possible variety of facilities should be provided, while, at the same time, maintaining a reasonable balance between the constituent activities;

(3) the building should be compact, since the popularity of any one activity tends to vary inversely with its distance from the club room;

(4) the space or spaces should be flexible in order to accommodate ever changing interests;

(5) with certain obvious exceptions, such as a quiet room or a committee room, activities should not be separated from one another by solid partitions.

These conclusions are, of course, highly generalised, and will need considerable modification in particular local circumstances.

42. The type of building just envisaged can be expected to solve several fundamental problems which both leaders and members were seen to be facing in the clubs visited. Some of these have been mentioned already but will bear repetition:

(1) the formation of little clubs or coteries at the expense of club solidarity is discouraged;

(2) the building will provide the right physical environment for both sexes to do joint work, such as cooking or carpentry, without embarrassment. In a successful mixed club the members regard as irrelevant the arbitrary divisions sometimes made between certain boys' and girls' activities;

(3) the problem of capturing the interest of the lazy or self satisfied member is to a large extent solved by the building itself. He is automatically introduced to all sorts of activities with-

out having to search them out. His diffidence is overcome by the close relationship between the activity he chooses and the social centre;

(4) the close and harmonious relationships between activities will tend to widen the interest of people who already practise certain skills well, and who tend not to expose themselves to the influence of other, and totally dissociated, activities;

(5) the building will also help to kindle an interest in practical and athletic activities amongst those naturally inclined towards drama and music and, perhaps even more frequently, vice versa;

(6) organisation and supervision are made much easier.

43. The last of these advantages—ease of organisation and supervision—merits a separate paragraph since the design problems involved are of considerable subtlety. The building must encourage the development of casual, informal and unobtrusive supervision. And it should also encourage the development of self discipline and self

supervision by the members themselves. It is not so much a matter of arranging for all the spaces to be visible from a central point, as in a prison; it is rather that the spaces and activities should be able to flow into and around each other, so that the leader and his helpers can circulate freely without interrupting groups or individuals and without having to “do the rounds”.

44. The building should, therefore, be robust, spare and boldly detailed; there should be no trace of preciousness or fussiness. It shelters and serves a volatile and transient pattern of behaviour and must, therefore, be conceived in three dimensions to allow the utmost controlled flexibility of space. It follows that there can be no question of a standard plan for youth clubs except, possibly, in the sense that the internal spaces should be so flexible that there is no formal plan at all. But even this is an over simplification since local traditions, existing facilities, size and location of site, cost, town planning requirements, and so on will all bring pressures to bear on the plan.

PARTICULAR ASPECTS OF CLUB DESIGN

General principles

45. The integrated character of club life is such that few spaces can be discussed in isolation. Practically every space will connect with and influence one or more other spaces devoted to other activities. Compactness and flexibility require great

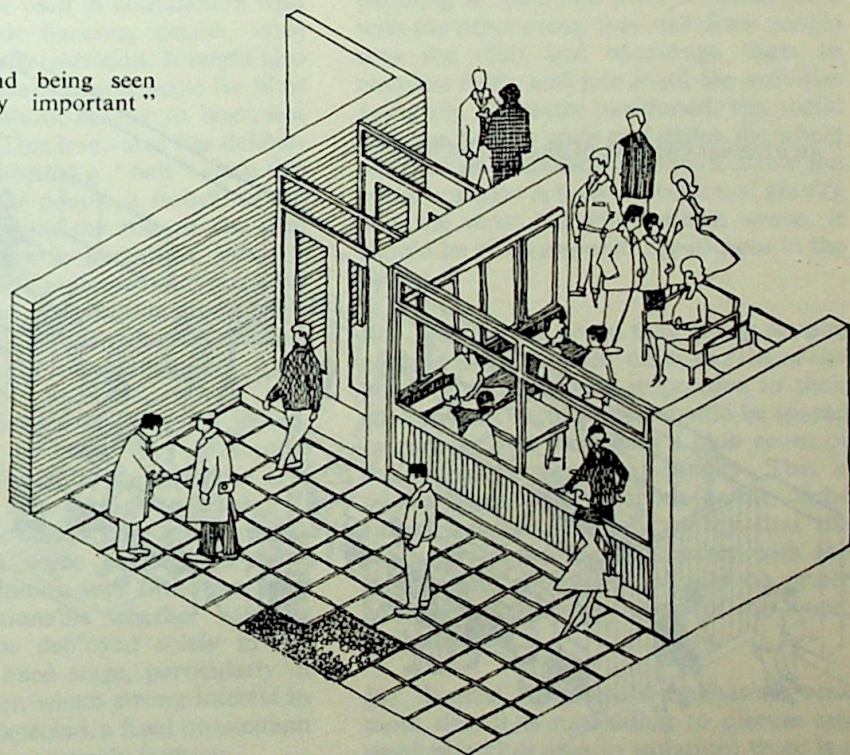
freedom of circulation, and the interpenetration of spaces and functions which can promote a sense of belonging to a larger group. The individual member must be aware of, and feel related to, all other activities. He must be aware too of the continuous movement—the gathering together and dispersal of groups of members.

46. Rooms and corridors are, therefore, largely irrelevant except in certain areas where quiet and privacy are important. In general, it is impossible to marry one particular activity with one particular space; to think in terms of "hall", "gymnasium", "boys' craft room", "canteen" or "club room" as so many separate rooms is to misjudge the situation. It would be idle to suppose that the function of a space is fixed forever by labelling it on the plan. In the following paragraphs it is, therefore, the dominant character of the various areas and their possible relationship with others which will be considered.

The club room

47. On entering the club, members should get a feeling of warm hospitality. Whilst the environment should be friendly and relaxed it must also be gay and should stimulate the curiosity. These qualities must, of course, be achieved in the contemporary idiom. The brilliance and sparkle, the liveliness and sophistication of the best coffee bars, may point the way. On arrival, members will need to hang up their coats, comb their hair and check their make-up. But, having done this, they will join their friends, some standing in groups around the bar and

"seeing and being seen
are equally important"

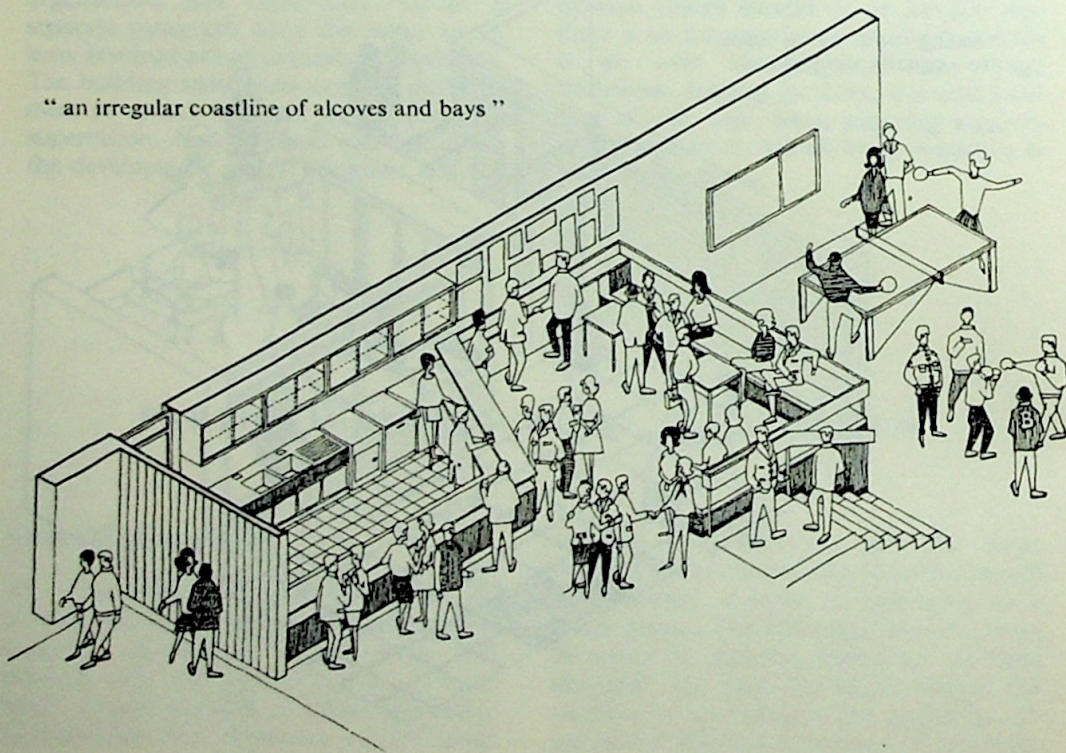


others moving to more comfortable seating. For an hour or so after the club opens, and indeed throughout the evening, there will be plenty of activity in this area. If the bar and the sitting area are close to the entrance they will attract most members, but if they are too far away or out of sight of the entrance they are unlikely to be much used in the early part of the evening when "seeing and being seen" are equally important. The position and design of the bar are, therefore, of great importance. The kitchen/servery/canteen conception of this area is irrelevant in the youth service. It immediately brings to mind the worst type of industrial and institutional canteens, which, by their character, discourage civilised behaviour and the social graces. Eating, drinking and talking are an important part

of the social activity of a club and the word "canteen" has no place in this BULLETIN.

48. The bar-sitting area should be closely associated with the entrance and its reception counter and cloakroom (see paragraphs 71 and 72). It might have the free-standing type of bar with stools and some tables and chairs, easy chairs and possibly some Pullman type tables and benches. An irregular coast line of alcoves and bays, which offer a variety of different kinds of immediate environment, might help to create an atmosphere of cosiness and comfort for those who wish simply to sit and talk or to play chess or draughts. Provision must be made for amplified music; the record-player can be placed behind the bar or in the

"an irregular coastline of alcoves and bays"



control room. There is likely to be sporadic dancing, for which the best arrangement is possibly to provide a small area planned with a lower ceiling, different floor finish and a lower level (or different character) of artificial lighting. A change in floor level might also be used to advantage. Orientation and view might be exploited by the use of low windows and planting, even though the club is mainly used at night. A sitting out terrace, patio or courtyard, might also be provided. But neither these nor the club room itself should normally be visible from the public highway.

49. Second only in importance to this area, and flowing from it, there might be a generous space used for the meetings and activities of a large number of members. This area will be used in conjunction with the bar area for dancing, drama, table tennis and perhaps television. It might also be possible to make arrangements for films to be shown without having to black-out the whole area. This large area has deliberately not been labelled a "hall" since this suggests to many people a rather formal area separated from the rest of the club by doors or movable partitions. What is wanted is a space so planned that activities may flow, expand and contract; and so that as many dissimilar activities as possible can be carried on simultaneously.

50. On the evidence of the clubs visited, drama appears to be a very spasmodic activity depending upon the presence of a leader able and keen enough to develop it. There were few which had active drama groups, and in some cases good stage facilities were finding very little use. It is, therefore, questionable whether valuable space should be deployed solely in the provision of a fixed stage, particularly in small clubs. Even where strong interest in drama may be expected, a fixed proscenium stage may prove extremely limiting.

51. But a stage, or rather a raised platform, has other uses in the life of a club. For example, it may be used for jazz groups and singers, for individual recitals, for fashion parades, brains trusts and so forth. All these activities would, however, be better served by a system of portable units in the form of boxes or collapsible platforms. A stage might then be improvised in the centre of the social area, or at one end with curtains forming a proscenium, or the units might be arranged to form raised seating for an audience.

52. The entrance and social areas must, therefore, cater for a wide variety of interests and activities. Together, they make up the meeting and gathering area which is the heart of a well planned club. If the planning is open, and there are close links with the other areas, they will draw people into the club and encourage them to circulate freely and join in all the activities going on. Correctly positioned, the social area can help to unify and define the whole club for its individual members. Since the social complex is both the centre of gravity and the most important single space, it should be given a special significance in the design.

53. There is no doubt that young people, perhaps more than any other section of the population, are highly responsive to their environment and no pains should be spared in creating and furnishing a club room of the highest architectural quality. This is not to suggest the pompous or the cliché ridden answer, but only to say that the character of the space, together with the finishes and equipment, should be firmly adult and, in the best sense of the word, sophisticated.

54. It must, however, be emphasised once more that it is misleading to discuss any particular club area in isolation; there is a

danger of giving the impression of a room with four walls and a flat ceiling. But if clubs are conceived, planned and furnished in this narrow way they will be robbed of much that is valuable. The reader should, therefore, keep in mind, when considering the recommendations about the treatment of the other areas made later in this BULLETIN, that they might all be linked directly with the club room without passages or corridors.

Practical activities

55. The practical work done in a club stems either from the needs of particular groups or the interests and hobbies of individuals. There will be the boy who wants to do a job on his motor cycle or repair a radio or some electrical gadget. A girl may have no chance to sew at home or to repair or alter a dress. Girls, or boys for that matter, often want to experiment in cooking. Then there will be the maintenance of camping gear, the making and repair of stage properties, and the many jobs which a club does to help itself.

56. One of the main objects of providing a craft area is to allow members the opportunity of discovering and developing their own interests. Formal classes of instruction may be rare—the self programming individual or group will be more usual. It is unlikely that any one art or craft will attract a steady following over a long period, nor is it likely that a high level of proficiency will be aimed at, though there will, of course, be exceptions. Young people in search of regular tuition can usually find it in Evening Institutes or Colleges of Further Education.

57. It would, therefore, be unwise to provide facilities specifically for individual crafts; instead, the aim should be to provide an area which can house a considerable

variety of interests at any one time. In this way, the whole range of activities can be made available simultaneously without time tabling, and the practical area can be exploited to the maximum advantage. The best course would, therefore, seem to be to regard the craft area as one large studio, with work-tops or tables forming subdivisions between various activities. The "dirty" crafts should certainly be kept clear of the "clean", but there should be no division between boys' and girls' crafts as both sexes may wish to engage in any one of them. What is wanted is a studio or design workshop, so arranged that quiet, messy and noisy activities can be carried on simultaneously and without undue interference with one another.

58. Since it is impossible to predict when any particular craft will flourish, or even whether it will be followed at all, the area will need to be planned very flexibly, either by arranging a sequence of bays, or by planning to allow bays to be formed by the re-arrangement of furniture. The main activities to be catered for are wood and metalwork and mechanical repairs, pottery and modelling, drawing, painting and printing, sewing and cooking. The cooking area might include a small dining area so that there could be occasional cooking demonstrations and invitation dinner parties. Where this can be combined with the club kitchen, duplication of equipment will be avoided. A covered, partially enclosed work area might be associated with the dirty crafts for repairing cars and motor cycles, but this presents a difficult problem of noise from the point of view both of other members and local residents.

59. There seems, however, to be a strong case for making specific provision for photography. A dark room with space for two or three people in a small club and for

a group of six to ten in a large club might, therefore, be provided.

60. Benches and cupboards in the craft area should be strongly made and should carry the requisite services. Storage for raw materials, tools and work in progress is necessary; overhead storage for timber and large items of work in progress, such as canoes, is often useful.

Physical activities

61. As with the practical area, it is the function of the physical area to provide for as many different activities as possible to be carried on simultaneously.

62. It is not in the best interest of a club to sacrifice some of the space for dancing, table tennis, drama, etc., which is usually associated with the social area, in order to provide for robust competitive ball games to be played indoors. Moreover, there can be no doubt that the two types of space are quite dissimilar in character, lighting, finishes, shape, position in the plan and relationship with other spaces. The design of a large space suitable for national ball games is a completely different problem: if a games shed of this type is required it is best to provide it separately, outside the main club building.

63. In order to preserve a proper balance in the club, however, space must certainly be found for some at least of the great variety of physical pursuits which are keenly followed in youth clubs. For instance, judo, boxing, wrestling, weight training, fencing, some kinds of agility work, ballet and other similar activities can all be accommodated indoors. None of these activities requires a large area, special room heights or finishes to be carried on successfully in the small groups common in youth clubs. Indeed, many of them can go

on simultaneously in an area having some other use—for example, in an area linked with the club room. Adequate storage must, however, be provided for the large amount of equipment involved.

64. Experience suggests that the formal gymnasium is not the right kind of space for the physical activities of a general mixed club.

65. Except in very large clubs and in sports centres designed to provide games facilities to be shared by several youth clubs, it will not be possible to provide an indoor space as large as 2,800 sq. ft. for ball games and badminton. Anything smaller would be totally inadequate, and it would need to be considerably larger to serve its purpose well; an area of 5,000 to 8,000 sq. ft. would be much nearer the mark. This may be provided in a variety of ways. It may be sensible, and it is certainly more realistic in the case of clubs of average size, to provide an outside hard paved or hard porous area, flood-lit and surrounded with netting. This would provide for basket ball, football practice, several badminton courts, cricket nets, tennis and roller skating. But with more money to spend, the area for ball games might be given a roof and some protection from wind and rain. A covered, protected, but unheated games shed of about 5,000 sq. ft. might be provided at a cost equivalent to that of some 2,000 sq. ft. of totally enclosed heated space. It will generally not be possible, however, to find the money for a covered games shed without severely reducing the accommodation in the main club building, thus producing an unbalanced plan. On confined sites it may be necessary to provide a games area on the roof of the club building.

Other activities

66. Drama and art have already been

mentioned, but there are in addition a number of other pursuits which can be distinguished from the other activities in the club by their need for a certain amount of privacy and for a quieter environment. This group includes, apart from drama and art, lectures, discussions, the reading of magazines and daily papers, writing, play reading and drama rehearsals, as well as committee meetings. Music making in all its forms must also be considered, as well as listening to serious jazz or classical music on records.

67. It is not necessary to regard these activities as forming a separate "department". Indeed, smaller clubs may have to be content with one well insulated committee room, and perhaps one or two small music listening booths. And, if too many small rooms are provided, the effect will be not only to increase the total cost of the building but also to produce a congested plan, thus reducing the club's impact and the scope of its activities. Although many of these group activities require a measure of physical separation, a separate sound proof box is rarely what is wanted. It is better to provide a far less formal type of division, such as light mobile screens; these can make it possible for a group to meet and talk with some degree of privacy, whilst still remaining in touch with other activities going on in the club. Moreover, even where spaces are cut off from the rest of the club for sound protection, this need not imply that they must be surrounded by solid partitions. At the least, doors should have large glazed panels. But wherever possible glazed partitions rather than solid walls should be used in order to preserve the openness and free flow of space, and the sense of contact between activities. Members themselves may often feel happier if they know that their friends can find them quickly or know where they are, and the leader will find supervision easier. By

careful planning these activities can, however, be placed at a distance from the main sources of noise.

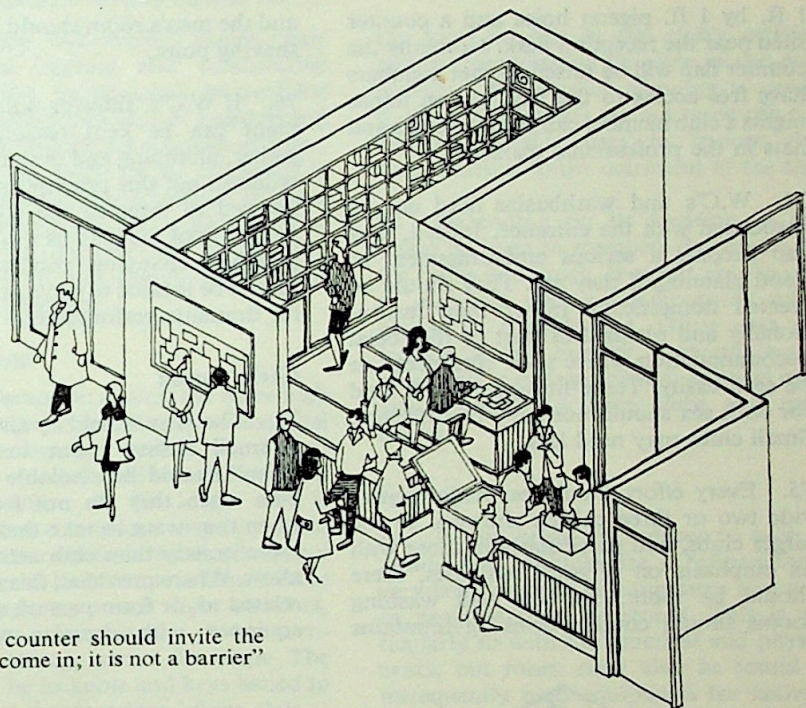
68. If possible, a committee room might usefully be associated with the leader's office, where it could be used to entertain visitors and interview members and parents.

Administrative and ancillary accommodation

69. The administrative and ancillary accommodation necessary for a large club can occupy a considerable area. The facilities needed may include a base for the warden or leaders, space for office services, together with a reception area to deal with registration, subscription, information and the many enquiries which have to be dealt with.

Leader's room

70. There will usually be only one leader's room, but in some large mixed clubs there may be a case for providing two. There is some difference of opinion about the size and location of the leader's room, and about the need to make it sound proof. It should certainly be easily accessible to members, and, unless there is to be a separate administrative office, it should have filing cabinets for club and members' records. Space will also be needed for a safe, a keyboard, first aid box, public address equipment, master light switch and possibly some small items of equipment in addition to the leader's chair, desk and three or four chairs for visitors. The leader does not usually spend much time in his office while the club is open, but, for the reasons already given, a suitable position for his office would be near the social area and not too far from the entrance.



“the reception counter should invite the new member to come in; it is not a barrier”

Reception and information

71. This area should be close to the main entrance. It will usually be staffed by the members themselves, who will deal with registration, enrolments, subscriptions, team lists, the booking of games tables and rooms. It should, therefore, be linked with the office where records are kept. A large well lighted information board covering the whole range of club activities will be close at hand. If possible, a place should also be found for a public telephone with a sound absorbent hood. Space at the reception desk might also be needed for a typewriter, duplicating machine, filing cabinet and for members who are helping to organise certain aspects of the club life to

write letters and keep files. There might also be a place for girls to leave their handbags.

72. Above all, however, it should be remembered that the reception counter will be the first contact with the club by a new or intending member. It should, therefore, invite him to come in; it is not a barrier, like the reception desks of some public offices.

Cloakrooms washrooms and lavatories

73. The coat hanging space should also be near the entrance and so placed that it needs no special supervision. The best arrangement is probably a bay with 1 ft. by

1 ft. by 1 ft. pigeon holes and a counter sited near the reception desk. Normally the counter flap will be raised so that members have free access to the bay, but on dance nights a club member can check in coats and hats in the professional manner.

74. W.C's and washbasins need not be associated with the entrance. Indeed, they can become a serious embarrassment to good planning if they are. They should be treated domestically rather than institutionally and planned as part of the social accommodation where their entrances can be seen easily. Three fittings of each kind for each sex should normally be sufficient. Small clubs may need less.

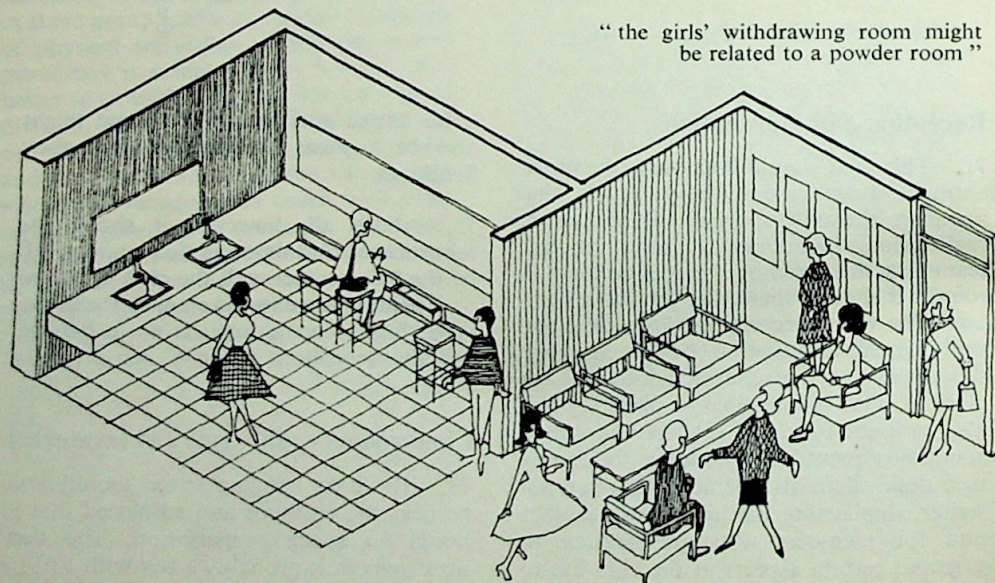
75. Every effort should be made to provide two or three cubicle showers. In the larger clubs, and particularly in those with an emphasis on physical activities, there should be more. Showers and washing rooms should contain drinking fountains

and the men's room should have an electric shaving point.

76. If W.C's, showers, kitchen and boiler plant can be kept reasonably close together, plumbing and drainage costs will be reduced, but this principle should never be allowed to threaten the compactness and flexibility of the plan as a whole. Wherever possible, changing rooms and showers should be located to serve as dressing rooms for dramatic performances.

Girls' room

77. The view is held by some leaders that a small sitting room or "withdrawing room" should be available for use by the girls when they do not feel sociable, or when they want to take their leisure rather more quietly than club activities generally allow. Where provided, this room might be related to, or form part of, a powder room equipped with dressing tables, mirrors



"the girls' withdrawing room might be related to a powder room"

(including one full-length), basins, hair dryers, good lighting and comfortable stools. It might, on occasion, be used for classes and demonstrations of hairdressing and make-up. The sitting room should not, however, be so large or so comfortable that it acts as a counter attraction to other spaces or encourages the segregation of groups of girls from the rest of the club. Simple furniture and slatted bench seats would be appropriate.

Control room

78. As a precaution against the more high spirited members organising the occasional complete black-out, a certain number of electric light points should be switched from the leader's office. In the larger club it might be more convenient to group these and other master controls in a small control room. This need be little more than a store containing meters, master light switches, public address microphone, a pair of turntables, and storage room for discs. The door should be lockable and keys issued to one or two senior members of the club.

Multiple use of club premises

79. Many clubs are used during the day for a variety of activities including some which are not directly associated with the life of the club. Indeed, outside use of the premises can be of great benefit to the club, both financially and as a means of increas-

ing local interest in the club's activities and in strengthening its place in the community. But careful planning is needed if these advantages are not to be offset by allowing outside uses to impose their requirements to the detriment of the club.

80. Depending on its location, a club might be open to members during the day for coffee and lunch. It might also be open to members who are temporarily unemployed or convalescent. Other uses may include a day nursery, dancing lessons, rehearsals, meetings, clinics, mothers meetings, Darby and Joan clubs and many others.

Storage

81. Where areas are subject to such intensive and multiple use it follows that a very large amount of equipment and work in progress must be stored. This is particularly so with the practical and physical areas, but room must also be found for infrequently used equipment for activities such as camping and drama. Specific storage for chairs, folding platform units, table tennis tables and stage properties may need to be provided in the social area; and adequate additional storage space will be needed if the club is likely to be used by non-members, so that the outside users can have somewhere to store their paraphernalia.

THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

Structure

82. The general concept of a mixed youth club, as outlined in this BULLETIN, implies a compact and openly planned building. When considering the choice of structure and internal partitions it should, therefore, be borne in mind that the development of

new activities must not be inhibited more than is absolutely unavoidable by the load bearing component. Even with an open site and a single storey building, the advantages, from this point of view, of a framed building should not be overlooked; and the costs should be compared with those of more obvious but usually more inflexible methods

of construction such as "cross wall". A sensible solution, in some cases, might be to use load bearing external walls combined with column and beam construction for carrying internal loads. In general, however, the structure, external walls and internal partitions should be sufficiently robust to withstand fairly rough usage and allow for the fixing of a variety of light equipment.

Finishes

83. In specifying building materials, components, fittings and furniture, a choice will often have to be made between low capital cost and low maintenance cost. Most clubs have the financial responsibility for maintenance and they would probably rather have sparse but good quality finishes and equipment, to which they could add as the years go by, than a building complete to the last detail but made of inferior materials. But quite apart from financial considerations, every effort should be made to provide robust and maintenance free materials and firm detailing in order to avoid the frustration and dissipation of energy caused by frequent repairs. The psychological value of a well maintained club is obvious; scruffy and damaged surroundings tend to lead to further damage, or at best a disregard for the appearance and condition of the club, whereas a well maintained club tends to inhibit even the most destructive elements and often engenders a pride of ownership.

84. The conflicting demands of character, cost and durability will also have to be resolved when selecting finishes and furniture. Finishes should be robust and durable; but they must also be sophisticated. Common sense, as well as cost, will be the best guide, and the simple direct answer is to be preferred. It would seem sensible to spend more on the entrance, bar and social areas in order to give them durable and

attractive finishes and to economise on other areas. But this balancing of the tough finishes, such as fair-faced brick, concrete block, in-situ concrete, or exposed steel against the tough but sophisticated finishes such as mosaic, panelling, decorative tiles and plastic sheet should not, of course, be carried too far.

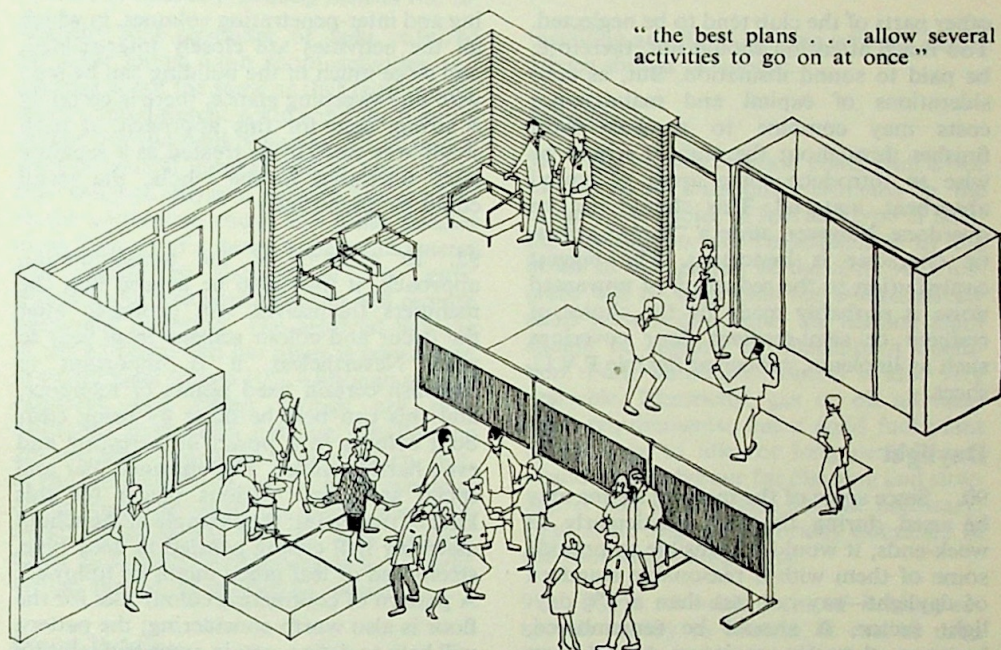
85. One of the most satisfactory general purpose flooring materials produced in an excellent range of colours is linoleum. It combines reasonable cost with good wearing qualities and a degree of resilience. When used in tile form small areas can be replaced easily. The same can be said for a number of other materials, such as rubber and flexible P.V.C. For the club room it might be worth considering wood block or strip, but cost will usually be the deciding factor.

86. Open planning means fewer doors; but the doors will take heavy traffic and should be of good robust quality, as should the frames or linings, trim and ironmongery. Solid core flush doors give better service than skeleton framed doors and are worth the extra cost. They are particularly suitable for circulation areas and lavatories.

Movable partitions

87. Despite the emphasis placed in this BULLETIN on the need for open planning there will, of course, be occasions when a measure of separation between activities is needed for psychological reasons and to promote concentration. In general, however, the use of folding and sliding partitions is not recommended. Although the design of such partitions has been much improved in recent years, their use in club premises has the following disadvantages:

- (1) they may greatly increase the cost per sq. ft.;
- (2) flexibility is a quality inherent in



the plan. The club which has to timetable its major activities, and re-arrange spaces accordingly, will lose spontaneity and attract fewer members. The best plans will not rely on dual use; on the contrary, they will make it easy to allow several activities to go on at the same time;

(3) it is by no means easy to provide a room with the right character and furniture for large groups of members, and then divide it into two rooms equally suitable for smaller groups.

88. In clubs of average and above average size, true flexibility is, therefore, best achieved by providing a building containing a sufficient variety of interlocking spaces, so that groups can form and re-form without pre-planning and without time-tabling. The necessary degree of temporary separation

between activities can then be secured by the use of light mobile screens, such as those illustrated above. But folding and sliding partitions may sometimes be needed in the smaller clubs, despite the high cost which is inevitable if the partition is to be properly designed and fitted to offer good sound insulation (30 db or above). Cheaper partitions, such as the plastic coated fabric "concertina" type, are useful as space dividers, but offer little sound insulation.

Sound

89. In general, young people welcome a high level of background noise to most of their activities. It is important that the club should not only look, but also *sound* busy and interesting. Moreover, the facilities which cannot be seen or heard from

other parts of the club tend to be neglected. Too much attention should not, therefore, be paid to sound insulation. But, as considerations of capital and maintenance costs may combine to produce hard finishes throughout the club, it would be wise to introduce some areas of sound absorbent material. This should not be overdone, however, since a "lively" acoustic character is important. The biggest contribution to the reduction of unwanted noise is probably made by the choice of resilient or semi-resilient floor coverings such as linoleum, rubber or flexible P.V.C. sheet.

Daylight

90. Since some of the meeting rooms may be used during the day, particularly at week-ends, it would be sensible to provide some of them with a reasonable standard of daylight—say not less than a 1% daylight factor. It should be remembered, however, that the maximum use of most spaces will be at night and, while it is not suggested that the window area should be so far reduced as to make the club appear gloomy during the day, a sensible balance must certainly be found. The larger the window area, the greater will be the cost of cleaning, painting, curtaining and repairing. And it should also be borne in mind that, in an openly planned club building, external walls will be needed to a greater extent than in other building types for fixing cupboards, shelves and pin-up.

Colour

91. In a building which encloses such a variety of activities and in which the constant movement of people plays such an important part, designers may imagine a non-committal colour scheme to be the only answer. Moreover, since the building is likely to consist of a number of interlock-

ing and inter-penetrating volumes, in which all the activities are closely inter-related, and since much of the building can be seen with one sweeping glance, there is certainly a strong case for this approach. If each small area were to be treated as a separate part, unrelated to the whole, the result could be disastrous.

92. In support of the non-committal approach, it may also be argued that the members themselves will probably alter the decor and colour scheme from year to year. Nevertheless, it is important to establish certain fixed points of reference, and this can best be done by using clear bold colours in a powerful, arresting and even harsh manner. The entrance, bar and social areas are obvious places for this kind of treatment; the example of the school assembly hall ceiling painted in deep blue, strong red or leaf green might be followed. A pattern of contrasting colour tiles for the floor is also worth considering; the pattern will help to define certain areas and to unify spaces. But one or two bold statements of colour or pattern will be sufficient to establish the necessary foundations of the colour scheme.

Artificial lighting

93. Since clubs meet mainly in the evening, the design of artificial lighting is crucial. The challenge to the designer's experience and ingenuity will be exacting if a functional and stimulating design is to be produced within a low budget. With an openly planned building, careful thought will be needed if adjacent areas are to retain their character ranging from "exhibition" lighting in the entrance bar and dancing areas, to the flood-lighting of play pitches. The lighting of the social area presents the greatest problem since it must be so designed that it can be changed for several different activities; for example, the

intensity and character of light required for table tennis, club room activities and dancing is not the same as that required for a play, and different again from the lighting needed for the weekly dance. An adequate level of general lighting will be required in the craft and physical activity areas, while in the committee room and other smaller areas lighting of a more domestic character will usually be appropriate. The girls' sitting room and powder room will require particular attention. The artificial lighting of the entrance and bar areas is considered in paragraphs 48 and 107. Although several excellent and cheap fittings are now available, fluorescent lighting installations are still more expensive than tungsten. But, as the club will be in use on most evenings of the week for nearly the whole year, this initial disadvantage will be very quickly offset by savings in running costs. All light fittings should, of course, be robust.

Flood-lighting

94. Where a club is provided with a hard games area it should be flood-lit. A level of 10 lumens per sq. ft. is adequate for playing any ball game; it is the accepted standard for flood-lit league tennis. But this is a relatively high level of illumination and a somewhat lower level might be quite acceptable for general use.

95. For normal purposes lights are mounted 20 ft. 6 in. high on standard 23 ft. poles set 2 ft. 6 in. into the ground. Lights should be dispersed around the area in order to get an even spread of light and to reduce the glare caused by concentrations of high powered lights. It is, however, possible to light large areas from one side only, and economies may be made by mounting lights on the building itself rather than on dispersed poles. Where this is done the design must be worked out carefully if the result is not to be disappointing. Before

installing any flood-lighting scheme, expert advice should be sought.

Heating

96. The heating of a new youth club is one of the more intractable elements in the design. The choice of fuel and type of heating installation will be influenced by the hours of occupation of the club. As most clubs will be used only for comparatively short periods at a time, the heating plant should be capable of intermittent operation. Fully automatic control is also very desirable. Electricity, gas or oil all meet these requirements; but a solid fuel plant would have to idle for long periods and would require labour for cleaning and stoking. A fuel store would also be necessary. Four basic systems are briefly examined in the following paragraphs.

97. *Warm air*—this form of heating responds readily to control. It can be used intermittently and is also ideal for providing a quick heat-up. Warm air can be provided by a ducted air system, using oil, gas or electricity, individual electrical appliances, or by low pressure hot water supplying cabinet heaters. Ducted warm air systems can be fitted into small, simply planned clubs at a reasonable cost; but the larger clubs, particularly if they are on more than one floor, complicate the problem of adequate air distribution and temperature control. In this type of club, low pressure hot water supplying individual cabinet type heaters will simplify the problem of heat distribution to the open spaces; but smaller enclosed rooms would need to be heated by radiators to avoid having to supply warm air to several small rooms from a central unit. Cabinet heaters do, of course, affect the design of a club, they may have to be built into spaces provided as stores or permanently fixed to the walls.

98. Electric convectors or unit heaters

offer a possible solution, especially when the club is used for short periods only, or when separate parts of the club are in use at different times of the day. The capital cost is low and control is simple; but the running costs are high.

99. *Radiators*—radiators, convectors, skirting-board heaters, sill line heaters, or other similar appliances supplied by an oil or gas fired boiler, combined with the use of cabinet heaters in the large spaces, might together form a satisfactory heating combination for most clubs. Capital costs would be higher than for an all-electric system, but comparable with a ducted warm air system for larger clubs. Running costs would be higher than warm air, but less than an all-electric system. Radiators also require a larger heat-up period than warm air.

100. *Radiant heat*—this can be supplied by either gas or electricity but is generally unsatisfactory for normal ceiling heights. Its use is not recommended.

101. *Floor heating*—this form of heating can be provided either by electric cables or low pressure hot water coils embedded in the floor. Whilst it gives the architect more freedom in design, it is sluggish in operation and functions efficiently only when used continuously. It is not, therefore, suitable for clubs.

Furniture

102. Most new clubs will start life with a modest amount of furniture and little more than the basic equipment. This seems right for three reasons:

(1) the money now available to the youth service should be spent on providing the maximum of space. In other words, it is a better policy, given the choice, to build large clubs and furnish

them sparsely, than to provide small and inhibiting buildings completely furnished;

(2) it is impossible to forecast the direction in which a club will develop over the years; there is no point in spending money on furniture and equipment which the club may not use very often;

(3) the club which has been furnished, and to some extent equipped, by its own efforts is generally a more virile and worthwhile place.

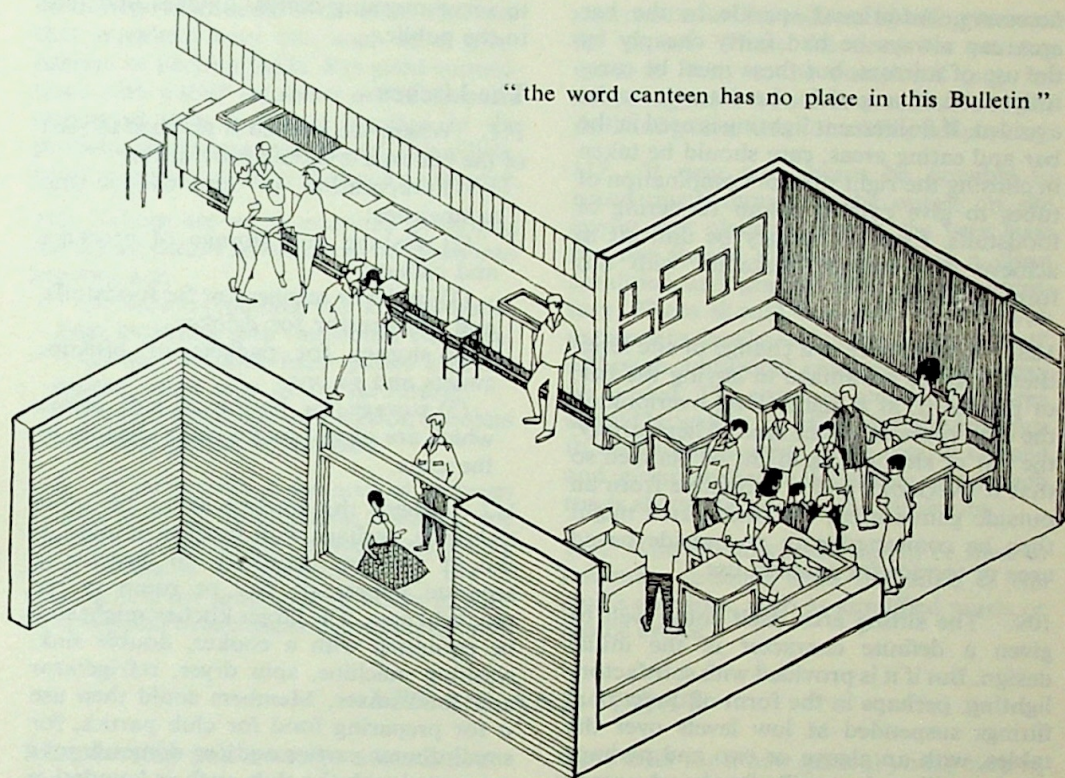
103. In general, loose furniture should be robust, durable and of good modern design. It should be well finished and have no bolts, screw heads or nails visible. Where chair legs have rubber buffers they should be securely fixed. Springs in arm chairs and wall seats should be concealed. Upholstery might be of woven washable plastic.

104. Nesting chairs and, possibly, stackable tables might be an advantage for the social area. But although lightness is important, robustness should not be sacrificed to mobility. Cupboards, shelving, coat racks, benching and wall seats all need to be robust; wood seems to be an obvious choice of material. Wooden tables, work tops, counters and so forth can nowadays be protected with improved clear plastic seals. It is doubtful, however, whether they will resist cigarette burns. In general, only the more expensive plastic veneers will stand up to really careless use.

The bar

105. An attractive bar is important for most clubs, but the task of combining well designed lighting, seating and food display into a stimulating and comfortable free-standing bar is not easy on a tight budget. But an elaborate or fussy design would in

"the word canteen has no place in this Bulletin"



any case be out of character, so a simple answer using timber framing and sheet materials will usually be entirely satisfactory. The bar surface might be of an easily renewable sheet material such as linoleum. Alternatively, since the bar counter may be of considerable length, and thus a prominent feature visible from many parts of the club, it might well be worth while using a thick mahogany top. This would produce a feeling of quality and solidity. The counter might usefully be given a U, hollow T or boomerang shape.

106. It is usually better to display food on shelves along the back wall of the bar. Glass cases on the counter are difficult to keep clean, interrupt the counter itself,

and make it difficult to clean down. The glass case also tends to produce the "cafeteria" character which is not what is wanted. The lighting in the bar area is, of course, a matter for the individual designer. One very successful way of producing a high level of illumination with plenty of sparkle is to rely on louvred reflectors mounted in a suspended ceiling. The space between the ceiling and the roof or floor above might provide useful storage for infrequently used equipment, such as camping gear.

107. Lighting of the food display could be by one or two spot lights, or perhaps by a string of low-powered bulbs. Apart from this, no general lighting should be

necessary. Additional sparkle in the bar area can always be had fairly cheaply by the use of mirrors, but these must be carefully sited if a garish character is to be avoided. If fluorescent lighting is used in the bar and eating areas, care should be taken in choosing the right tube or combination of tubes to give correct colour rendering of foodstuffs. Even so, it may be difficult to achieve the required character with this form of lighting.

108. Where there is a change of site level, there may be advantage in having the bar, or part of it, at a higher level overlooking the club room or dance area. Alternatively, the bar or sitting area might be planned so that it overlooks and is accessible from an outside games area; the sitting area might then be connected with an outside paved area or terrace for summer use.

109. The sitting area itself could well be given a definite character in the initial design. But if it is provided with satisfactory lighting, perhaps in the form of directional fittings suspended at low levels over the tables, with an alcove or two and perhaps a lower ceiling, there will often be advantage in leaving the decor to the members.

110. The over-riding planning factor, however, is that the bar and seating area should be easily visible from the main entrance, and so placed that it is integrated with the club and all its activities. There might also be a case in some localities for planning the bar area so that it is visible from the public highway, with perhaps tables with sunshades on the pavement or on a balcony overlooking the road. This might certainly be done where it is planned

to serve morning coffee, lunches and teas to the public.

The kitchen

111. Where the kitchen is planned as part of the bar area it should provide for:

- (1) preparation of hot drinks and sandwiches;
- (2) washing and storage of crockery and cutlery;
- (3) larder or refrigerator for foodstuffs, and refrigerator for drinks;
- (4) storage for packets of biscuits, sweets and so on;
- (5) storage for bottles of soft drinks which are often bought more cheaply by the crate.

112. Where the kitchen is to be more elaborate, perhaps with lunches in mind, it should not be necessary to provide a separate housecraft bay or room in the practical area. The larger kitchen might well be equipped with a cooker, double sink, washing machine, spin dryer, refrigerator and food mixer. Members could then use it for preparing food for club parties, for small dinner parties and for domestic jobs connected with the club, such as laundering curtains and football shirts. The equipment could also be used for demonstrations by caterers and chefs, and for making biscuits, cakes, patés and so forth for sale at the bar. Where possible, the kitchen might then be linked to the practical area by a small bay which could be used as a dining room for small groups.

113. Room in the kitchen should also be found for a cleaner's cupboard where it is not possible to provide a separate store with a sink.

THE SITE

114. In all its activities the club will be competing, to a greater or lesser extent, with commercial enterprise. If only for this

reason, it is generally more important for the club to have a prestige position near a shopping and entertainment centre than to

be closely associated with other facilities that members may use, such as a gymnasium or playing fields. But good connections with public transport are often more important than a central position in the probable catchment area, though this will depend to some extent on the housing density.

115. There are no regulations governing the size of sites. The factors to be taken into account are:

- (1) the area required for the club buildings, including their immediate curtilage;
- (2) any outdoor hard games area required either now or in the future;
- (3) parking space for bicycles, scooters and perhaps one or two cars.

116. In most cases a site area of between $\frac{1}{4}$ and $\frac{1}{2}$ acre will be sufficient; it should not normally be necessary to provide a larger area, unless it is intended to lay out a playing field for summer and winter games. In congested urban areas the minimum site

area can be further reduced by using the roof for games. Where the need for parking space is likely to be occasional (e.g. for dance nights) it would be reasonable to use the hard games area for additional parking.

117. It may not always be possible to spend much money at the outset on site layout and planting, but at the very least the site should always be left in a clean condition and grassed down where necessary. There should normally be only one entrance to the site and to the building itself, although additional emergency exits may be needed. The entrance and parking area should be well lit; in particular, the entrance to the building needs to be clearly defined and given preferential lighting. Approach roads should be kept to the minimum.

118. The building itself should be sited to minimise nuisance from the noise of the club's activities, such as amplified music or motor cycles.

AREAS AND COST

Membership and average attendance

119. The area required to provide a general mixed club with the range of facilities recommended in this BULLETIN depends on the expected average nightly attendance rather than on the total membership. The relationship between these two figures must, however, be expected to vary a good deal from area to area, and from time to time within the same area. In some cases, total membership may be as much as three times the average nightly attendance, whereas in others the two figures may be much closer together. The effect of a new building, the success of the leader and the range of facilities provided are some of the factors which influence the relationship.

120. The first step in preparing the archi-

tect's brief for a new general youth club is, however, to decide the average nightly attendance for which the club is to be designed. Since no general guidance can be given, this will involve making an appraisal of all the local circumstances likely to influence attendance, and drawing on the advice of leaders and organisers with the experience of existing clubs providing similar facilities in other areas. But, although the figure finally chosen will always owe more to informed judgment than to techniques of exact estimating, it is nonetheless essential to decide on a definite figure: it will otherwise be impossible to give the architect a firm brief on areas and cost. (The *membership* that a club can support must be decided on the basis of experience, after the building has been brought into use).

Areas

121. The recommendations made in this BULLETIN are consistent with a total club area of between 40 and 45 sq. ft. per unit of average nightly attendance (a.n.a.); this figure excludes any covered games area that may be provided in addition to the club building itself.

122. For example, a club provided for an a.n.a. of 200 might be designed within a total area of about 9,000 sq. ft., the allocation of space to different uses being broadly as follows:

Social activities	: 2,000 sq. ft.
Physical activities	: 1,200 sq. ft.
Practical activities	: 2,000 sq. ft.
Other activities	: 1,800 sq. ft.
Administration and ancillary accommodation	: 2,000 sq. ft.

A smaller club, for an a.n.a. of 80, might be designed within about 3,600 sq. ft. allocated as follows:

Social activities	: 800 sq. ft.
Physical activities	: 800 sq. ft.
Practical activities	: 600 sq. ft.
Other activities	: 600 sq. ft.
Administration and ancillary accommodation	: 800 sq. ft.

123. These allocations of space should not, however, be regarded as anything more than a rough indication of the space that may be needed for different activities on a typical evening. They should certainly not be treated, except possibly in the case of administrative and ancillary accommodation, as areas which need to be clearly defined in the actual design of the club building.

Cost

124. The recommendations made in this BULLETIN assume a nett cost of 75s. 0d. per sq. ft.¹ at October, 1961 prices, for a general mixed club for an a.n.a. of 200, designed within a total area of about 45 sq. ft. per unit of a.n.a. But a yardstick of cost per square foot is not sufficiently flexible to cover the wide range of requirements for which architects will be expected to design, nor does it give sufficient scope for local preferences in the use of a given allocation of cost. For example, some clubs may wish to place more emphasis on social activities: this will tend to increase the cost per square foot. Others may wish to place more emphasis on activities requiring additional space rather than expensive finishes or fittings: this will tend to decrease the cost per square foot, while increasing the area per unit of a.n.a.

125. This suggests that a suitable yardstick of nett cost would be £170 per unit of a.n.a., at October, 1961 prices. This allows slightly more than is needed to provide 45 sq. ft. per unit of a.n.a., at a nett cost of 75s. 0d. per sq. ft., but gives freedom to the architect and his client to decide whether to increase the area at the expense of cost per square foot, or vice versa. It is recommended, however, that the area should not, in any circumstances, be less than 37.5 sq. ft. per unit of a.n.a.

126. The cost of external works will, of course, vary according to the nature and size of the site and the extent of the facilities provided outside the main club building. A range between 5% and 20% of the nett

¹Nett cost is defined as the cost of the club building including services, built-in furniture and equipment, foundations and drainage up to and including the manholes immediately adjoining the club building. Other building costs, mainly for external works, are defined as items of additional cost. Gross cost is the sum of nett and additional cost, and excludes expenditure on professional fees and on movable furniture and equipment.

building cost can be expected. For estimating purposes at an early planning stage, it would be reasonable to assume that the additional cost will amount to 10% of the nett building cost.

127. For youth clubs attached to schools or colleges of further education, a yardstick of £90 nett per unit of a.n.a. is recommended. This is consistent with an area of 20-22 sq. ft. per unit of

a.n.a. as recommended in paragraph 3 of Appendix 1.

128. The figures of cost given in this part of the BULLETIN are, as stated, on the basis of October, 1961 prices. Any necessary revisions will be announced from time to time in the appropriate Ministry of Education Circular, a copy of which should be obtained before work is begun on any project requiring the Minister's approval.

APPENDIX 1

A NOTE ON YOUTH SERVICE ACCOMMODATION ATTACHED TO OTHER EDUCATIONAL BUILDINGS

1. Some local education authorities have already begun to design youth club premises as an integral part of other educational establishments. This approach has much to commend it where it is not possible or desirable to provide separate youth clubs, or where young people are prepared to come together to pursue a definite interest or activity. Developments of this kind may serve a particularly useful purpose in rural areas, where the inevitably limited facilities of small village clubs can be supplemented by providing better facilities at various centres, such as the secondary school or technical college serving the area.

Secondary schools and colleges of further education

2. The usual practice is to incorporate youth club accommodation in the design of a new secondary school or technical college or to add a youth wing to an existing school or college. If the club is to lead a vigorous and independent life in these circumstances, there are, however, several points which need careful consideration:

(1) the accommodation provided solely for the use of the club should be enough to provide a satisfactory base for its social life at times when the school or college is closed (e.g. during holidays and at week-ends) or when it is required by other users. The essential needs are a clubroom and social area on the lines of paragraphs 47-54. There should certainly be a leader's office and a place for some of the other activities described in paragraphs 66-68. Some separate

cloakroom and lavatory accommodation is also essential for the club to function as an independent unit. The club should have its own well-defined entrance;

(2) attention should be paid to all those qualities of furnishings, fittings and finishes, of lighting and acoustics, discussed earlier in this BULLETIN, which provide a social environment particularly attractive to teenagers;

(3) the problems of organising and supervising the life of a club are greatly increased when large areas of accommodation and circulation are open to members. Moreover, the costs of cleaning and heating extensive areas for evening as well as day use may prove uneconomic. The design should, therefore, seek to contain the club within a reasonably compact area of the main buildings, with easy access to any rooms in the school or college which are to be used by the club;

(4) generous additional storage space should be provided for club practical work, over and above that provided for normal use, if the school or college workshops are to be available to club members;

(5) wherever possible a practical area should be included in the club premises for the small odd jobs which do not need elaborate facilities;

(6) existing heating installations should, wherever practicable, be extended to serve the club premises. Where the main plant is shut down at night or operated on a depressed flow temperature a simple warm air system fired by gas, oil or electricity should be considered.

3. The separate youth accommodation for an average nightly attendance of 120 included in the design of a new school or college might comprise a total area of about 2,500 sq. ft. and be disposed as follows:

a social area linked to a	
practical area	1,600 sq. ft.
other activities	300 sq. ft.
leader's office	120 sq. ft.
cloaks etc. and storage . .	500 sq. ft.
Total	2,520 sq. ft.

4. The wider problem of designing secondary schools and colleges of further education so that some of their facilities can be used in the evenings and at weekends by the community at large, including adults as well as young people, is the

subject of a separate study by the Ministry's development group. The results will be published in due course in the Building Bulletin series.

Primary schools

5. The provision of youth wings at primary schools is not recommended. Even in rural areas, where this form of provision is sometimes proposed, every effort should be made to arrange for several villages to support a purpose designed youth club between them. There may, however, be some isolated villages of substantial size where there is no reasonable alternative to making use of the primary school. In such circumstances the only practical course is to link the youth service accommodation with the hall or other large space.

APPENDIX 2

A NOTE ON FIRE PRECAUTIONS

Means of escape

1. *General*—every club will need at least two exits to the open air; some will need more. These exits must be capable of being opened from the inside at all times. They must not, therefore, be fitted with security locks or bolts.

2. *Number of exits*—because of the way the building is likely to be used, exits must be provided from each part of the building related to the numbers which may use that part. (This may add up to many more than the total expected in the building at any one time). Particular attention must be paid to parts which may be used for large gatherings, especially a closely seated audience.

3. *Escape from upper floors*—every club on more than one floor will need at least two ways leading down to ground level; these must be effectively separated one from the other by fire-resisting construction.

Construction

4. *General*—standards as for schools will be acceptable.¹ Where plans have a number of small rooms which are approached only from a central space, such spaces will need to be lined with non-combustible materials or those that are inherently Class 1.² The same will apply to stores, kitchen, areas used for handicrafts and, of course, escape routes.

5. *"Do it yourself" activities*—great care must be taken that any "do it yourself" activities do not change the original plan and construction for the worse from the point of view of fire risks. In particular, the introduction of new or re-arranged partitions or of additional combustible materials, either in the partitions or as applied surfaces to walls or ceilings (including suspended ceilings), should not be undertaken without first taking expert advice. Similarly, alterations or additions to the electrical installation should not be undertaken by the members, nor should any extra locks or bolts be added to any of the external doors (or indeed to any internal doors on an escape route).

Fire alarms

6. *General*—some means of giving an audible alarm in case of fire will be essential in every club. Except in the smallest clubs, this should be by a manually operated electric system. The electricity should be supplied from batteries which are themselves kept fully charged by a trickle charger.

7. *Provision of call points and bells*—call points should be provided adjacent to all main exit doors and also near the entrance to each stair leading from upper floors. They should be prominently placed. Because of the high noise level to be expected

¹ Building Bulletin No. 7 (third edition) Fire and the Design of Schools. (H.M.S.O. 4s. 0d.)

² B.S. 476: Part I. 1953. Fire Tests on Building Materials and Structures. British Standards Institution. (4s. 6d.)

in youth clubs, it will probably be necessary to provide a bell in every room.

Fire fighting equipment

8. *Fire brigade*—in some circumstances it may be necessary to provide fire fighting facilities for use by the fire brigade. The Chief Fire Officer should always be consulted at an early stage in planning to find out what is required.

9. *Fire extinguishers*—in the event of fire, club members must leave the building immediately. It will, therefore, be sufficient in most clubs to provide portable fire extinguishers, the provision being on the same scale as is recommended for schools.¹

Miscellaneous

10. As with all types of building, it is of

the utmost importance to avoid obstructing stairways and exit doors; all doors must be capable of being opened easily and quickly from the inside whenever there is anyone in the building. Doors across escape routes are provided to prevent smoke spreading if fire should break out. Members should be made aware of this and of the need to close them immediately a fire warning is given.

11. Shavings, waste paper and other combustible rubbish, which may easily arise out of some of the craft activities, should not be allowed to accumulate in the building, but should be cleared up at the end of each evening and removed to non-combustible containers kept outside.

12. Because of the dangers arising from spilling petrol, motor cycles should not be brought into the building unless suitably designed accommodation is available not open to the main club space.

¹ Building Bulletin No. 7 paragraphs 120-128.

The Youth Service in England and Wales

A Committee under the chairmanship of Lady Albemarle was appointed in November 1958 by the Minister of Education, to review the contribution which the Youth Service of England and Wales can make in helping young people to play their part in the life of the community. The report describes the current "state of acute depression" in the Service and urges an imaginative ten-year development programme. Its recommendations include extending the service to all young people aged 14-20, increasing the full-time youth leader force, setting up a Youth Service Development Council, and founding more, less formal clubs. (Cmnd. 929).

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